POL 14 VIETS

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Saigon 2952

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ACTION EA 19

INFO GPM 03, SC 01, PSC 01, USIA 12, H 02, NSC 10, NSA 02, L 03, INR 07, P 04

CIA 04, DOD 01, SP 02, SS 35, SAH 02, SAL 01, IO 21, AID 30, RSR 01,

/161 W

R 120815Z AUG 67
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4487
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 3760
CINCPAC
AMCONSUL DANANG 713

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY Joan Izenberg DATE 10/6/81
RDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

1. APOSTOLIC DELEGATE PALAS TOLD EMBOFF AUGUST 11 CATHOLIC CHURCH IN VIET-NAM WOULD NOT TAKE PUBLIC POSITION ON ELECTIONS, OTHER THAN TO URGE CITIZENS TO VOTE AS CIVIC DUTY. SEVERAL PASTORAL LETTERS TO THIS EFFECT HAVE ALREADY BEEN ISSUED, NOTABLY BY BISHOP PHAM NGOC CHI IN DANANG AUGUST 6. MSGR. PALMAS EMPHASIZED THAT HE HAS URGED ON ALL OF HIS VIAYNAMESE CONTACTS IMPORTANCE OF FREE ANDOQONEST ELECTIONS AS ESSENTIEO STEP TOWARDS ESTABLISHMENT OF DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT.

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2. WHILE STRONGL SUPPORTING ELECTIONS, MSGR I PALMAS STATED FLATLY THAT EVEN ELECTIONS WILL HAVE LITTLE CONSEQUENCE IF STRONG AND CONTINUED AMERICAN SUPPORT FOR SOUTH VIET-NAM IS PLACED IN QUESTION. HE ADDED HE DOES

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NOT RPT NOT HIMSELF DOUBT THAT U WILL CONTINUE PROVIDE SXSENTIAL SUPPORT FOR SVN.

3. APOSTOLIC DELEGATE IS NOMINALLY ACCREDITED TO NORTH AS WELL AS SOUTH VIEBONAM, BUT HE SAID, IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION, THAT HE IS UNABLE TO CONTACT CATHOLIC HIERARCHY IN NORTH VIET-NAM, EVEN TO TRANSMIT ESSENTIALLY RELIGIOUS MATERIAL, IGSUCH AS CONCLI IONS OF
RECENT VATICAN COUNCIL. LETTERS HE HAS SENT TO NVN BISHOPS (EVIDENTLY FROM CAMBODIA) ARE RETURNED MARKED QUOTE ADDRESS UNKNOWN UNQUOTE.

BUNKER

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